

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004 LB 1017

that. And those auditors' workload will be particularly people who don't live in Nebraska, who are beating us. They are coming into this state, doing work, then going home and not paying our taxes. Our auditors, for every auditor, we know, the Appropriations Committee will tell you, they make \$600,000 on taxes we were always due and owing. An auditor finds \$600,000 in taxes a year; not new taxes, taxes we were due and owing. So strengthening the auditing function will be a helpful thing for the state. Amnesty will cost about 280,000 bucks. This amendment has the money in it. Some of the money will go for tax compliance. That will have an ongoing basis. For every auditor you add, you're adding \$600,000 of tax support, and it will raise \$6 million of one-time money. That will make this bill cash flow. It will also help us with things that we've done recently with respect to the budget. I would ask for the adoption of AM3658.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I would like to say I do support Senator Landis' amendment, AM3658. I believe amnesty is a good thing because it will, as has been said, will encourage people to come forward and put some more revenue into our state that we've been missing because they've, essentially, been ripping us off. So I think that's a good thing. I did want to make a comment as to the bright line amendment. Just to be on the record that the bright line amendment was pulled and I believe that instead of 40, it will remain at 50 percent. But I do want to make a comment as to the impact that the bright line has on your standard homeowner versus larger contractors. I call that the Butternut building amendment. Why? Because if you look at the Butternut fire in Omaha, that building essentially was gutted, has a huge value, and when they do rebuild it, they will probably qualify for the tax credit because they will reach that 50 percent threshold for...of the valuation of their property in order to get the tax benefit from it. If you look at the standard homeowner whose roof has blown off their house or their basement floods, some other major catastrophe to their home, they may put in 10, 15 thousand, that's a major reconstruction but it would nowhere near come near the 50 percent valuation threshold that they